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(71) Applicant: ADCO PRODUCTS, INC. [US/US]; 4401
Page Avenue, Michigan Center, MI 49254 (US).

(72) Inventors: WANG, Xiaobin; 19 Royal Crest Drive, Apartment 2, North Andover, MA 01845 (US). KUBISH, Scott, D.; Tower Drive, Saline, MI 48176 (US). BRIDDELL, Brian, J.; 5901 Mary King Drive, Jackson, MI 49201 (US).

(74) Agents: PRIOR, Patricia, L. et al.; Killworth Gottman Hagan & Schaeff, LLP, Suite 500, One South Main Street, One Dayton Center, Dayton, OH 45402-2023 (US).

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(54) Title: SILYLATED POLYURETHANES FOR ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS WITH IMPROVED MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

(57) Abstract: The silylated polyurethane polymer includes a polyurethane prepolymer having between greater than about 50 to about 95 % of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents. The polymer has an improved mechanical properties. The polymer can also have between about 5 % to less than about 50 % of the NCO groups terminated with low molecular weight terminators.



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SILYLATED POLYURETHANES FOR ADHESIVES AND
SEALANTS WITH IMPROVED MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

This invention relates generally to silylated polyurethane polymers, and
5 more particularly to silane-terminated polyurethane polymers with improved
mechanical properties, to silane- and low molecular weight terminator-terminated
polyurethane polymers, to sealant compositions containing such polymers, and to
methods of making them.

Generally, conventional urethane-based adhesives and sealants have
10 better physical properties, including tensile strength, elongation, and tear
strength, than do adhesives and sealants made with silylated polyurethane
capped with common capping agents such as aminotrimethoxysilanes and
isocyanatotrimethoxysilanes. This makes it difficult to use silylated polyurethane-
based adhesives and sealants in some applications, despite other advantages
15 that they have over urethane-based products.

There are currently two approaches used to improve the mechanical
properties of silylated polyurethanes. One solution has been to cap the
polyurethane completely using difunctional silanes as capping agents. However,
the cure rate of adhesives and sealants made with this type of silylated
20 polyurethane decreases unacceptably in some cases. The other approach is to
cap the polyurethane completely using certain special capping agents which
reduce the cross-linking density. These include silanes having the general
formulation



|

 R^2

such as N-phenyl-*gamma*-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane. These special silanes
are costly to use because of their high prices and high molecular weights, and the
improvement in properties they provide is limited.

30 U.S. Patent No. 3,627,722 (Seiter) discloses a partially capped
polyurethane sealant composition. Seiter states that between 5 and 50% of the
NCO groups should be capped. According to Seiter, capping more than 50% of

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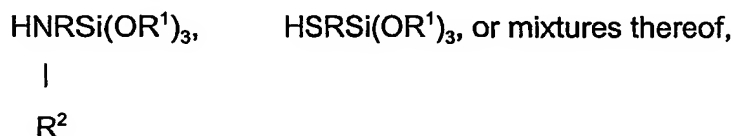
the NCO groups produces a soft polymer with less cohesive strength than when less than 50% are capped.

Therefore, there is a need for economical silylated polyurethanes with improved mechanical properties for use in adhesives and sealants.

5 This need is met by the present invention which provides a novel silylated polyurethane polymer having improved mechanical properties which can be used in sealant compositions, and a method of making the same.

10 The silylated polyurethane polymer includes a polyurethane pre-polymer having between greater than about 50 to about 95% of the NCO groups terminated with silane groups. The polymer has improved mechanical properties, including tensile strength, elongation, and tear strength. The polymer can also have between about 5% to less than about 50% of the NCO groups terminated with low molecular weight terminators. Low molecular weight terminators include an active hydrogen which can react with the NCO groups.

15 The silane groups are preferably selected from



20 where R represents a divalent organic moiety, R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, and R² represents hydrogen, a C₁₋₆ organic moiety, or a second RSi(OR¹)₃ which may be the same as or different from the first such group.

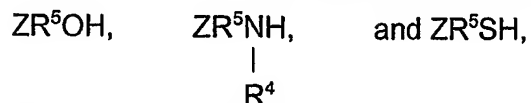
The low molecular weight terminators have groups preferably selected from functional end groups except NCO groups, and inert end groups. The inert end groups are preferably selected from



30 where R³ represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and R⁴ represents hydrogen or R³. The molecular weight of R³ is more preferably less than 100, and R³ is most preferably a methyl, ethyl, or propyl group.

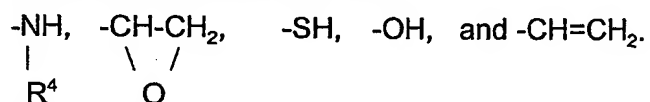
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The functional end groups are preferably selected from



5 where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, R^5 represents a divalent organic moiety, and Z represents any functional group except NCO groups. The molecular weight of R^4 is more preferably less than 100, and most preferably R^4 is a methyl, ethyl, or propyl group.

10 Z is preferably selected from



15 where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and more preferably less than 100. R^4 is most preferably a methyl, ethyl, or propyl group.

Another aspect of the invention are sealant and adhesive compositions including the silylated polyurethane polymer as described above. The sealant and adhesive compositions will typically include additional compounds, such as
20 fillers, reinforcing agents, solvents, catalysts, rheology modifiers, ultraviolet light screening compounds, and adhesion promoters.

Another aspect of the invention is a method of making the silylated polyurethane polymer described above. The method includes reacting a polyurethane prepolymer
25 having NCO groups with silane capping agents so that between greater than about 50 to about 95% of the NCO groups are terminated with silane groups. The method optionally includes reacting the polyurethane prepolymer with a low molecular weight terminator so that between about 5 to less than about 50% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators.

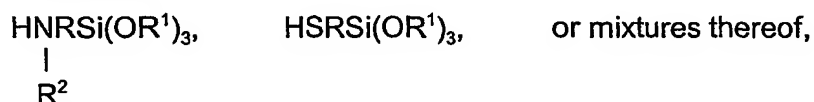
30 Preparation of isocyanate terminated urethane prepolymers, and silylated polyurethane with silane capping agents, are well known in the art. See, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 3,627,722, 3,632,557, 3,979,344, and 4,222,925, which are incorporated herein by reference. Curing of the polymer results from hydrolysis of the silane end groups and condensation of Si-OH moieties.

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In the present invention, a majority of NCO groups are capped with common silane capping agents. The remaining NCO groups are either left unreacted, or are capped with low molecular weight terminators. The low molecular weight terminators can form inert end groups or introduce different functional groups into the silylated polyurethane.

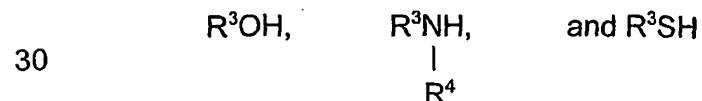
Between greater than about 50 to 95%, preferably between about 80 to about 95%, of the NCO groups can be capped with common suitable silane capping agents. There can be between about 5 to less than about 50%, preferably about 5 to about 20%, uncapped NCO groups. The percentage of capped NCO groups depends on the chemical structure of the isocyanate terminated urethane prepolymer. That is, it depends on factors including the type of raw materials, such as TDI or MDI and polyester polyols or polyether polyols, functionality, molecular weights, and also on the desired end use for the polymer.

Suitable silanes include, but are not limited to, silanes having the following general formulas:



where R represents a divalent organic moiety, R¹ represents a C₁₋₈ alkyl group, and R² represents hydrogen, a C₁₋₈ organic moiety, or a second RSi(OR¹)₃ which may be the same as or different from the first such group.

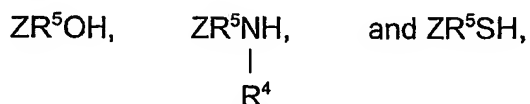
The portion of the NCO groups which are not capped with the silane may optionally be capped with low molecular weight terminators. Generally, the low molecular weight terminators can be any substance containing hydrogen which will react with an NCO group. The low molecular weight terminators can form inert end groups or introduce desirable functional groups onto the polymers. Low molecular weight terminators which form inert end groups include, but are not limited to, the following:



where R³ represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, preferably less than 100, and most preferably R³ is a methyl, ethyl, or propyl group, and R⁴ represents hydrogen or R³. Low molecular weight terminators

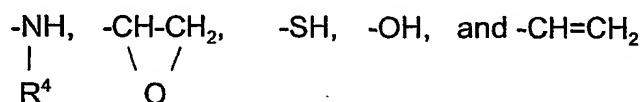
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which can be used to introduce different functional groups include, but are not limited to,



where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, R^5 represents a divalent organic moiety, and Z represents any functional group except NCO

groups. The functional groups include, but are not limited to,



where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000.

The silane capping agents and the low molecular weight terminators can be added together or separately. The sequence in which the reactants are added depends on their relative reactivity.

Adhesives and sealants made using the polyurethane prepolymers of the present invention will typically include fillers such as carbon black, and catalysts such as dibutyltin diacetate. Other fillers and catalysts can also be used. The adhesives and sealants can also contain additional components including adhesion promoters, rheology modifiers, and ultraviolet light screening compounds, and other components if desired.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood, reference is made to the following non-limiting examples.

Example 1. A partially capped silylated polyurethane

1179.58 g of 2000 molecular weight polyether diol (PPG-2200 from ARCO Chemical Company), 123.14 g of TDI (80/20 isomer mixture) and 96.41 g of anhydrous toluene were charged. The reaction was carried out at 140°F in the presence of 0.58 g of dibutyltin diacetate (METACURE® T-1 from Air Products and Chemical, Inc.) and 0.29 g of acetic acid under anhydrous condition. When the NCO percentage dropped to 0.708 in about 2 hours, 36.58 g of *gamma*-

-6-

aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (Silquest® A-1110 from OSi) was added after the temperature had been cooled down to 110°F. Then, the NCO percentage dropped to 0.106 in about 15 min. This partially capped silylated polyurethane had 15% uncapped NCO groups.

5 Example 2. A silylated polyurethane fully capped with a silane capping agent and a low molecular weight terminator

1179.58 g of 2000 molecular weight polyether diol (PPG-2200 from ARCO Chemical Company), 123.14 g of TDI (80/20 isomer mixture) and 96.41 g of anhydrous toluene were charged. The reaction was carried out at 140°F in the presence of 0.58 g of dibutyltin diacetate (METACURE® T-1 from Air Products and Chemical, Inc.) and 0.29 g of acetic acid under anhydrous condition. When the NCO percentage dropped to 0.708 in about 2 hours, 36.58 g of *gamma*-aminopropyltrimethoxysilane (Silquest® A-1110 from OSi) and 1.12 g of methanol were added when the temperature had been cooled down to 110°F. Then, the NCO percentage dropped to zero in less than 30 min. The reaction was done.

Example 3. Comparison of properties of adhesives made with the silylated polyurethane of Example 2 and a silylated polyurethane fully capped with Silquest® A-1110

Adhesives were made using the silylated polyurethane of Example 2 and a silylated polyurethane fully capped with Silquest® A-1110. The only difference between these two silylated polyurethanes is the capping agent. The adhesive formulation is as follows:

Adhesive Formula		
	Ingredient	Part by wt.
25	Silylated polyurethane	634.14
	Carbon black ^a	300.00
	Methanol, anhydrous	57.00
	Dibutyltin diacetate ^b	1.00
	Neoalkoxy, tri(Nethylaminoethylamino) titanate ^c	3.36
30	N-beta-(Aminoethyl)- <i>gamma</i> -aminopropyltrimethoxysilane ^d	4.50

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- a. Regal 300R from Cabot Corporation
- b. METACURE® T-1 from Air Products and Chemical, Inc.
- c. KEN-REACT® Lica 44U
- d. Silquest® A-1120

5 Comparison of Properties of Silylated Polyurethane Adhesives

Property	Adhesive A ^a	Adhesive B ^b
Tack-free time @23°C/50% RH, min.	12	12
Cure rate @23°C/50% RH, in/24 h	0.24	0.24
10 Tensile strength @ break, PSI ^c	1400	1000
Tear strength, PLI ^c	207	150
Elongation @ break, % ^c	400	200
Hardness, Shore A	60	72
Adhesion to glass w/o primer	100 % CF ^d	100 % CF ^d
15 a. Adhesive A was made with the silylated polyurethane of Example 2.		
b. Adhesive B was made with the silylated polyurethane which was		
prepared from identical prepolymer in Example 2 but fully capped		
with Silquest® A-1110.		
c. Samples were cured for 6 days in 23°C/50% RH environment		
chamber.		
20 d. CF stands for cohesive failure.		

The silylated polyurethane of Example 2 (fully capped with a silane
 capping agent and a low molecular weight terminator) had improved tensile
 strength, tear strength, and elongation as compared to the silylated polyurethane
 25 fully capped with a silane capping agent. The tack-free time and the cure rate for
 the two adhesives are the same. Thus, the silylated polyurethane of the present
 invention provides improved properties without sacrificing cure rate. In addition,
 the present invention makes silylated polyurethane more tailorable and offers
 more flexibility to formulate adhesives and sealants. Furthermore, the cost of
 30 making this type of silylated polyurethane can be lower than that of normal
 silylated polyurethane.

While certain representative embodiments and details have been
 shown for purposes of illustrating the invention, it will be apparent to those skilled
 in the art that various changes in the methods and apparatus disclosed herein

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may be made without departing from the scope of the invention, which is defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A silylated polyurethane polymer comprising:

a polyurethane prepolymer having between greater than about 50 to about 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents, the silylated polyurethane polymer having improved mechanical properties.

2. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 1 wherein the silane capping agents are selected from



10 |
 R²
where R represents a divalent organic moiety,

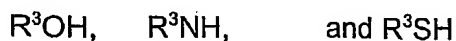
R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ organic moiety or a second RSi(OR¹)₃ which may be the same as or different from the first such group.

15 3. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 1 wherein between about 5% to less than about 50% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators, wherein the low molecular weight terminators include an active hydrogen which can react with the NCO groups.

20 4. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 3 wherein the low molecular weight terminators have a group selected from functional end groups except NCO groups and inert end groups.

5. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 4 wherein the inert end groups are selected from



25 |
 R⁴
where R³ represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and
R⁴ represents hydrogen or R³.

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6. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of R^3 is less than 100.

7. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 5 wherein R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

5 8. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 4 wherein the functional end groups are selected from

ZR^5OH , ZR^5NH , and ZR^5SH ,

|
 R^4

10 where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000,

R^5 represents a divalent organic moiety, and

Z represents any functional group except NCO groups.

15 9. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 8 wherein the molecular weight of R^4 is less than 100.

10. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 8 wherein R^4 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

11. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 8 wherein Z is selected from

20 $-NH$, $-CH-CH_2$, $-SH$, $-OH$, and $-CH=CH_2$.
 $\begin{array}{c} | \\ R^4 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} \backslash / \\ O \end{array}$

where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000.

25 12. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 11 wherein the molecular weight of R^4 is less than 100.

13. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 11 wherein R^4 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

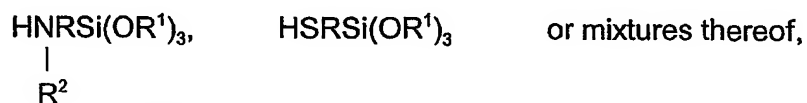
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14. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 1 wherein the polyurethane prepolymer has between about 80 to about 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents.

15. A sealant composition comprising:

- 5 a silylated polyurethane polymer comprising a polyurethane prepolymer having between greater than about 50 to about 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents; and
 sufficient filler to form a thixotropic paste,
 the sealant composition having improved mechanical properties.

10 16. The sealant composition of claim 15 wherein the silane capping agents are selected from



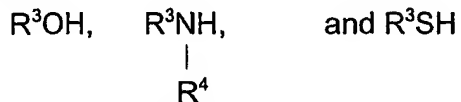
- 15 where R represents a divalent organic moiety,
 R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,
 R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ organic moiety or a second
 RSi(OR¹)₃ which may be the same as or different from the first such group.

20 17. The sealant composition of claim 15 wherein between about 5% to less than about 50% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators, wherein the low molecular weight terminators include an active hydrogen which can react with the NCO groups.

25 18. The sealant composition of claim 17 wherein the low molecular weight terminators have a group selected from functional end groups except NCO groups and inert end groups.

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19. The sealant composition of claim 18 wherein the inert end groups are selected from

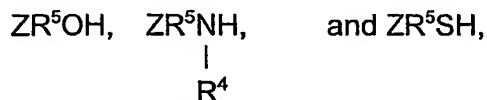


where R^3 represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and R^4 represents hydrogen or R^3 .

20. The sealant composition of claim 19 wherein the molecular weight of R^3 is less than 100.

21. The sealant composition of claim 19 wherein R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

22. The sealant composition of claim 18 wherein the functional end groups are selected from



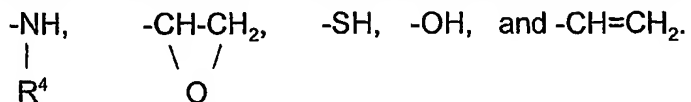
where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, R^5 represents a divalent organic moiety, and Z represents any functional group except NCO groups.

23. The sealant composition of claim 22 wherein the molecular weight of R^4 is less than 100.

24. The sealant composition of claim 22 wherein R^4 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

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25. The sealant composition of claim 22 wherein Z is selected from



5 where R⁴ represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000.

26. The sealant composition of claim 25 wherein the molecular weight of R⁴ is less than 100.

10 27. The sealant composition of claim 25 wherein R⁴ is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

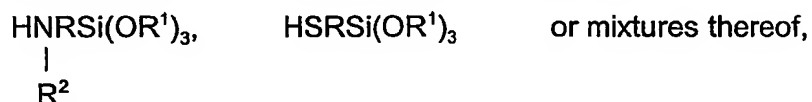
28. The sealant composition of claim 15 wherein the polyurethane prepolymer has between about 80 to about 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents.

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29. A silylated polyurethane polymer comprising:

a polyurethane prepolymer having between greater than about 50 to about 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents and between about 5% to less than about 50% of NCO groups terminated with low molecular weight terminators;

wherein the silane capping agents are selected from

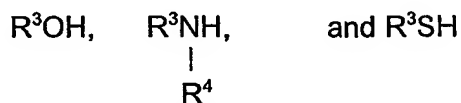


where R represents a divalent organic moiety,

R¹ represents a C₁₋₈ alkyl group,

R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ organic moiety or a second RSi(OR¹)₃ which may be the same as or different from the first such group; and

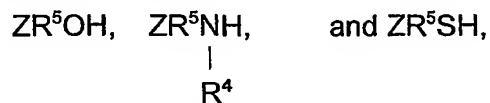
wherein the low molecular weight terminators are selected from inert end groups selected from



where R³ represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and

R⁴ represents hydrogen or R³

and functional end groups selected from



where R⁴ represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000,

R⁵ represents a divalent organic moiety, and

Z represents any functional group except NCO groups.

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30. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 29 wherein the molecular weight of R^3 is less than 100.

31. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 29 wherein R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

5 32. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 29 wherein the molecular weight of R^4 is less than 100.

33. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 29 wherein R^4 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

10 34. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 29 wherein between about 80% to about 95% of the terminations are made with the silane capping agents and between about 5% to about 20% of the terminations are made with the low molecular weight terminators.

35. A method of making a silylated polyurethane polymer comprising:
 15 reacting a polyurethane prepolymer having NCO groups with silane capping agents so that between greater than about 50 to about 95% of the NCO groups are terminated with silane capping agents.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the silane capping agents are selected from

20 $\text{HNRSi(OR}^1\text{)}_3$, $\text{HSRSi(OR}^1\text{)}_3$ or mixtures thereof,
 $\begin{array}{c} | \\ \text{R}^2 \end{array}$

where R represents a divalent organic moiety,

R^1 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group,

R^2 represents hydrogen or C_{1-6} organic moiety or a second $\text{RSi(OR}^1\text{)}_3$ which may be the same as or different from the first such group.

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37. The method of claim 35 further comprising reacting the polyurethane prepolymer with low molecular weight terminators, wherein the low molecular weight terminators include an active hydrogen which can react with the NCO groups so that between about 5 to less than about 50% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the low molecular weight terminators are selected from functional end groups except NCO groups and inert end groups.

39. The method of claim 38 wherein the inert end groups are selected from

10 R^3OH , R^3NH , and R^3SH
 $\quad \quad \quad |$
 $\quad \quad \quad R^4$
 where R^3 represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and R^4 represents hydrogen or R^3 .

15 40. The method of claim 37 wherein the functional end groups are selected from

ZR^5OH , ZR^5NH , and ZR^5SH ,
 $\quad \quad \quad |$
 $\quad \quad \quad R^4$
 where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000,
 20 R^5 represents a divalent organic moiety, and Z represents any functional group except NCO groups.

41. The method of claim 40 wherein Z is selected from

$-NH$, $-CH-CH_2$, $-SH$, $-OH$, and $-CH=CH_2$.
 $\quad | \quad \quad \quad \backslash \quad /$
 $\quad R^4 \quad \quad \quad O$
 where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000.

42. The method of claim 35 wherein between about 80 to about 95% of the NCO groups are terminated with silane capping agents.

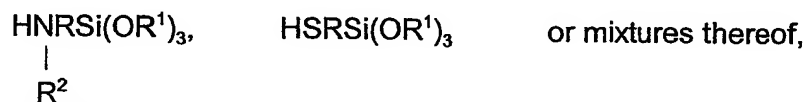
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43. The method of claim 37 wherein between about 5 to about 20% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators.

44. An adhesive composition comprising:

- 5 a silylated polyurethane polymer comprising a polyurethane prepolymer having between greater than about 50 to about 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents, the silylated polyurethane polymer having improved mechanical properties;
a filler; and
a catalyst.

10 45. The adhesive composition of claim 44 wherein the silane capping agents are selected from



15 where R represents a divalent organic moiety,

R¹ represents a C₁₋₆ alkyl group,

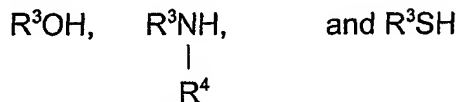
R² represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ organic moiety or a second RSi(OR¹)₃ which may be the same as or different from the first such group.

20 46. The adhesive composition of claim 44 wherein between about 5% to less than about 50% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators, wherein the low molecular weight terminators include an active hydrogen which can react with the NCO groups.

25 47. The adhesive composition of claim 46 wherein the low molecular weight terminators are selected from functional end groups except NCO groups and inert end groups.

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48. The adhesive composition of claim 47 wherein the inert end groups are selected from



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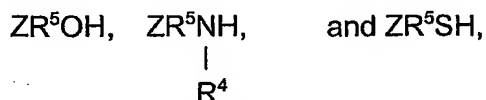
where R^3 represents an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, and R^4 represents hydrogen or R^3 .

49. The silylated polyurethane polymer of claim 48 wherein the molecular weight of R^3 is less than 100.

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50. The adhesive composition of claim 48 wherein R^3 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

51. The adhesive composition of claim 47 wherein the functional end groups are selected from



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where R^4 represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000, R^5 represents a divalent organic moiety, and Z represents any functional group except NCO groups.

20

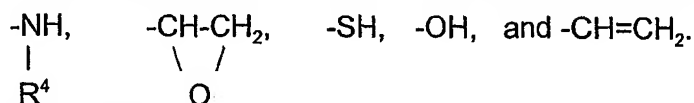
52. The adhesive composition of claim 51 wherein the molecular weight of R^4 is less than 100.

53. The adhesive composition of claim 51 wherein R^4 is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

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54. The adhesive composition of claim 51 wherein Z is selected from



5 where R⁴ represents hydrogen or an organic moiety whose molecular weight is less than 1000.

55. The adhesive composition of claim 54 wherein the molecular weight of R⁴ is less than 100.

10 56. The adhesive composition of claim 54 wherein R⁴ is selected from methyl, ethyl, and propyl.

57. The adhesive composition of claim 44 wherein the polyurethane prepolymer has between about 80 to 95% of NCO groups terminated with silane capping agents.

15 58. The adhesive composition of claim 48 where in between about 5 to about 20% of the NCO groups are terminated with low molecular weight terminators.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

National Application No

JS 01/18544

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C08G18/10 C09J175/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C08G C09J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 798 878 A (BRINKMANN BERND ET AL) 17 January 1989 (1989-01-17) claims 1,5,11,12,18,19; example C	1-6, 14-20, 28-30, 35-39, 42, 44-49,57
X	US 5 554 709 A (EMMERLING WINFRIED ET AL) 10 September 1996 (1996-09-10) column 6, line 1 - line 26; claims 1-3,8 --- -/-	1,2, 14-16, 28,35, 36,42, 44,45,57



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 December 2001

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17/12/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Angiolini, D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

I
nal Application No
JS 01/18544

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 539 045 A (POTTS KEITH B ET AL) 23 July 1996 (1996-07-23) claims 1,9	1,2, 14-16, 28,35, 36,42, 44,45,57

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